

Notices From Vacion

Please come along and join us for Shrove Tuesday Celebrations, 13th February at 6:00 p.m. at St. Saviours Church kitchen/lounge.



Lent 2018

The Christian Season of Lent is upon us once more. Lent is a time for Sharing, Reflection and Self-Examination. This year, St. Saviour's will have a special Lenten series with this Theme: *Just Thinking* - it is designed to bring before us some of the issues we face as Servants of God today, especially when people are saying the Church has little relevance. Thus, the whole series is intended to expand our intellect and make *Thinking* about and questioning faith issues the normal. We may not find the answers but we will be able to engage with faith, broaden the mind and may even challenge us to think outside the box. So, come along and take part in our services during Lent and listen to different speakers each Sunday, beginning on the 18th February 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Please keep an eye on weekly sheets for update on our *Just Thinking* special series guest speakers.

Our Special Series Speakers for Lent 2018

18th February – 1st Sunday in Lent: Ian and Lyn McNickle – Teachers and Missionary to Taiwan

25th February – 2nd Sunday in Lent: Rev. Murray Olson – Vicar Parish of St. John's Anglican Church, Te Awamutu

4th March – 3rd Sunday in Lent:

11th March - 4th Sunday in Lent: Pamela McCarthy – Freeset, India

18th March – 5th Sunday in Lent: Owen Johnson – Chaplain, Waikeria Prison for Men

25th March – 6th Sunday in Lent or Palm Sunday – Georgina Graham, Missionary to the Solomon Island/Teacher/Counsellor...



This week's reading – 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1: 40-45

Next week's readings - Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11 February

Sentence

A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!

Luke 7:16

Collect

**Exalted God,
you care for all who suffer,
remind us of our shared humanity,
move us with your compassion to the outcast and lost.
May we never turn away from those in need,
but share with generosity and joy the love we have received.
Through Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

VICAR: Rev Murray Olson – Office 871-5568 Monday to Friday

PRIEST: Rev Vacion Rae 021 0575 566

PRIEST: Rev Keith Storey – Home 871 5425

PRIEST: Rev Steph Owen – Home phone 871 3400

DEACON: Rev Norris Hall – Home phone 021 0227 1428

PARISH OFFICE Open 9.am till 1pm weekdays Phone 871 5568

Parish Luncheon 18th March

following AGM: Let us celebrate the contribution Murray has made to our Parish over the last 6 years.

AAW meets Tuesday 13 Feb at 11am

in the Parish Lounge. The speaker is Darryl Hik, from Commsafe. This is our first meeting of the year, so it's a chance to catch up, and meet new members. Remember to bring something for a shared lunch. See you there!

The Holiday Programme are looking for boxes eg cereal boxes or any you have for an activity that has been planned for the next holidays. Please drop into the office or the lounge where a box will be labelled for them to be left in

Wear red on Valentine's

Wednesday, February 14 is international Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Day. Around 12 babies are born every week in Aotearoa with a CHD – the primary cause of death for infants and newborns in New Zealand. Wear red on Valentine's Day to help raise awareness.

Weekly Church Group Meetings

Monday

9:30am Knit and Natter
10-2pm Pirongia Craft Group
5pm Outreach Meal

Tuesday

10am Prayer Group
9:30am Pirongia Walking Group
9-10am Gardening Group (2nd Tue)
10:30 Pirongia Community Cuppa

Wednesday

9:30am Mainly Music *
7pm Pirongia Bible Study (2nd Wed, Jenny Taylor 8259812)

Thursday

9:30am Selwyn Centre

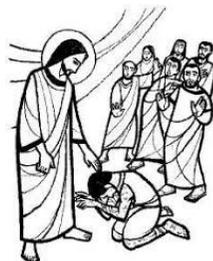
Friday

9:30am Mainly Music *
10am House Group
5:30pm Youth Group *

Sunday

9:30 Pirongia Sunday School

(Meetings with an * are term time only)



I know it sounds like one of my sermons, but I would like to point out three things this morning.

The first thing comes from this morning's Gospel and it is the story about the healing of the man with leprosy. It is recorded in Mark 1: 40-45 and it is story about God's grace and gratitude of the leper.

The story starts by telling us that a leper came to Jesus and said, 'If you choose, you can make me clean'. Moved with pity Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. Jesus then said, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leper was made clean.

The leper really experienced the grace of God through his being healed by Jesus. He also showed his gratitude to God by going and telling others what Jesus had done for him. All of us have experienced the grace of God in so many different ways. Do we show our gratitude to God by sharing with others stories about what Jesus has done for us?

The second thing is about our Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday at 5:15pm in Old St. John's. It is a very moving service that prepares us for our Lenten journey. Every year I feel sad because we only get small numbers at this service and so many are missing out on the blessings they could have received by attending it. So it would be good if you made an effort to attend this service. You will not regret it.

The final thing is about leadership. Peter Wagner, who was the Professor of Church Growth at the Fuller Theological Seminary for over thirty years, said this about leadership:

The gift of Leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and communicate these goals to others so that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish them for the glory of God.

I believe that this is an important idea as you start to consider who you are going to nominate for the 2018 Vestry. Sometimes people are elected onto Vestries because they are willing and not because of their leadership gifts.

You are entering into an exciting phase of the life of the parish under the leadership of a new Vicar. It is important that this leadership is backed up with a strong Vestry of leaders. So pray about this as you put forward names for the 2018 Vestry.